

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Goh Ballet presents the treasured holiday tradition**



**Featuring Principal Dancers from  
The National Ballet of Canada & Pacific Northwest Ballet  
Live Music from musicians of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra**

**Vancouver, BC** – Embark on a fantastical journey through the Land of Snow, Sweets, and the Sugar Plum Fairy with The Goh Ballet’s critically acclaimed presentation of *The Nutcracker*, featuring Principal Dancers from **The National Ballet of Canada** and **Pacific Northwest Ballet**, **December 16 to 19 at 7:30pm and December 18 to 19 at 2pm, at The Centre in Vancouver for the Performing Arts** with live music performed by musicians of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra.

Hailed as an “outstanding production,” by the Vancouver Sun, and “endlessly entertaining and impossibly pretty,” by the Georgia Straight, The Goh Ballet’s *Nutcracker* promises to capture the imagination of its audiences, ensuring they experience an unforgettable live performance the entire family will adore.

Choreographed by Anna-Marie Holmes, the magical holiday production will feature Principal Dancers from The National Ballet of Canada – Sonia Rodriguez and Piotr Stanczyk and Pacific Northwest Ballet – Mara Vinson and Karel Cruz (Principal Casting Dates TBD) with award winning young dancers, illusionist, ballroom dancers and gymnasts from throughout the Lower Mainland. Musicians from the Vancouver Opera Orchestra will perform Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s memorable Nutcracker Suite live at all six performances. Executive Producer for *The Nutcracker* is Chan Hon Goh, former Prima Ballerina with The National Ballet of Canada.

The Goh Ballet’s presentation of *The Nutcracker* will also showcase the elaborate sets and gorgeous costumes by Zhang Dinghao and Li Ming, and lighting design by Pierre Lavoie.

Fondly regarded as one of the most popular ballets in the Western world, *The Nutcracker* is a beloved holiday tradition for both young and old. Based on the classic E.T.A. Hoffman fairy tale “*The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*,” *The Nutcracker* tells the story of Clara, who receives a Nutcracker doll from her godfather, Drosselmeyer. The young girl later dreams that her Nutcracker comes to life and leads an army of toy soldiers into battle against the evil Mouse King. After the Mouse King is defeated, Clara and her Nutcracker Prince journey through the beautiful Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, witnessing a world of breathtaking magic along the way. When Clara awakens, she wonders if her magical journey was all but a dream.

**Regularly priced tickets for *The Nutcracker* range in price from \$28 to \$83.25** (plus applicable service fees) and are on sale now through Ticketmaster, [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), or by calling 604-280-3311.

*The Nutcracker* will tour to Victoria, November 26, 27 and 28, 2010 and perform at the Royal Theatre for its inaugural presentation by Dance Victoria. There the production will be accompanied by the Victoria Symphony Orchestra. For more details, please visit [www.gohballet.com](http://www.gohballet.com).

These performances would not be possible without the generous support from its sponsors. Title Sponsors for this year's production of *The Nutcracker* are **Montecristo Jewellers in partnership with Rolex.**

### **About Goh Ballet**

The Goh Ballet Youth Company was established in 1979 by Principal Dancers of The National Ballet of China, Choo Chiat and Lin Yee Goh. Currently under the Direction of Chan Hon Goh, the Goh Ballet Youth Company's objective is the pursuit of technical and artistic excellence in conjunction with raising cultural awareness in the community. This performing group reflects the city's cultural diversity; serves as a magnet to attract talented dancers locally and abroad; and helps to ease the transition from that of a student to professional dancer.

The Youth Company has presented and trained a generation of dancers who garner critical praise, respect and accolades. It has also established an international audience who anticipates impressive new works from this versatile and vibrant organization.

Through its wide-ranging repertoire of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, character and Chinese dance, the Goh Ballet has touched a diverse audience ranging from the youngsters discovering dance through the Youth Company's educational outreach program to the seasoned dance aficionados attending performances and international festivals.

For more information about Goh Ballet and performances, please visit [www.gohballet.com](http://www.gohballet.com).

### **About Anna-Marie Holmes, Choreographer**

Anna-Marie Holmes is an internationally acclaimed luminary of the dance world. Her interpretations of the Russian classics have been staged in more than 30 countries on five continents. In 1997, she received the Dance Magazine award for extraordinary and lasting contribution to the art form. *Le Corsaire*, which she staged for American Ballet Theatre appeared on PBS Great Performances and won an Emmy. She recently staged *La Bayadère* for the National Ballet of Flanders, *Raymonda* for American Ballet Theatre and the National Ballet of Finland, *Laurencia pas d'action* for the Joffrey Ballet, *Swan Lake* for the Norwegian Ballet, *Sleeping Beauty* for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and *Don Quixote* for the Tulsa Ballet. Holmes travels internationally to coach and teach at the Royal Ballet and English National Ballet in London, Le Ballet du Capitole in Toulouse, The Royal Danish Ballet and The National Ballet of Finland, to name a few. Holmes became the Artistic Director of the Boston Ballet in 1997 and during her tenure was instrumental in the company achieving national prominence. Holmes is in her 10th season as Ballet Program Director of Jacob's Pillow Dance.

#### **Reference:**

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